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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 18th and 36th meetings, on 27 October and 24 November 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.18 and 36).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.13 and A/C.2/59/L.30

2. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October 2004, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/59/L.13), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002 and 58/243 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,
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> "*Recalling also* the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the acknowledgement that the

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-8.

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global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

"*Recalling further* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, and the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

"*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

"*Noting also* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and twenty-six ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 44.2 per cent of emissions,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

"2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

"3. *Notes with interest* the preparations undertaken for the implementation of the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

"4. *Welcomes* the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session on the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Country Fund and urges donor countries to make financial contributions for the operationalization of the funds;

"5. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or

Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

"6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"7. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At the 36th meeting, on 24 November 2004, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/59/L.30), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.13. At the same time, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.30 by replacing, in the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "by continuing to provide support for the Panel" by the words "through continuing support to the Panel".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.30, as orally corrected (see para. 7).

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Benin and the Niger; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA country Norway), New Zealand and the United States of America.

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.30, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002 and 58/243 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Recalling further the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[2] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,[4] and the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003,[5]

Noting the review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ("Barbados Programme of Action");[6]

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

Noting that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[4] FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1, decision I/CP.8.

[5] FCCC/CP/2003/6/Add.1.

[6] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Noting also that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[7] has attracted one hundred and twenty-eight ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,[9]

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[10]

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[1]

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[7] strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Notes also* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol welcome its ratification by the Russian Federation, which satisfies the requirements for the Kyoto Protocol to enter into force;

4. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to continue their preparations for its entry into force;

5. *Notes with interest* the preparations undertaken for the implementation of the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

6. *Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session[5] and calls for their implementation;

7. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[11] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[12] and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

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[7] FCCC/CP/1997/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.
[8] See resolution 55/2.
[9] Ibid., para. 23.
[10] See A/59/197, sect. I.
[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[12] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

8. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".